



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

MAR - 6 2019

Ref: 19-F-0803

Alexander Ward
MuckRock News Department MR 63046
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Mr. Ward:

This is an interim response to your February 21, 2019 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on February 21, 2019 and assigned it case number 19-F-0803. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

Although we have already begun processing your request, we will not be able to respond within the FOIA's 20-day statutory time period as there are unusual circumstances that impact our ability to quickly process your request. The FOIA defines unusual circumstances as (a) the need to search for and collect records from a facility geographically separated from this office; (b) the potential volume of records responsive to your request; and (c) the need for consultation with one or more other agencies or DoD components having a substantial interest in either the determination or the subject matter of the records. At least one, if not more, of these scenarios applies or would likely apply to your request. While this office handles FOIA requests for the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Joint Staff (JS), and other component offices, we do not actually hold their records and our office is not geographically located with these organizations. As we do not hold the records, until the required records searches are complete, we are unable to estimate the potential volume of records or the number of consultations that will be required to make a release determination.

Your request has been placed in our complex processing queue and is being worked based on the order in which the request was received. Our current administrative workload is approximately 2,921 open requests.

In some instances, we have found that requesters who narrow the scope of their requests experience a reduction in the time needed to process their requests. If you have any questions or concerns about the foregoing or about the processing of your request, please do not hesitate to contact, Ms. Tyra Howard, assigned to case number 19-F-0803 at tyra.d.howard.civ@mail.mil; or (571) 372-0467.

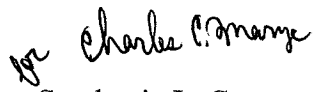
The OSD/JS FOIA Public Liaison, Jim Hogan, is available at 571-372-0462 or by email at OSD.FOIALiaison@mail.mil to answer any concerns about the foregoing.

Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS
College Park, MD 20740
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

We regret the delay in responding to your request and appreciate your patience.

Sincerely,


Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

Enclosure:
As stated